Ministry through the National Institute of Construction Management and Research (NICMAR).

Performance of JGSY

5624. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up a special fund to encourage development activities in the neglected rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have reviewed the performance and functioning of Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY);

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(e) whether the grant provided to States under JGSY has been utilised by them; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at this stage to set up a special fund under Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) exclusively for neglected rural areas since the scope of JGSY extends to all rural areas including neglected rural areas of each and every district of the country excepting Delhi and Chandigarh.

(c) to (f) JGSY has been launched with effect from 01.4.1999 after restructuring Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY). Though detailed evaluation of JGSY has not been done, since it was launched only last year, the financial and physical progress of the programme is, however, being regularly monitored at the Centre through monthly progress reports received from the States/UTs. Physical and financial performance under JGSY during 1999-2000 is given in the Annexure. (*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 132)

Empowerment of 'Gram Sabha'

5625. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to empower "Gram Sabha" with financial power and authority to quicken the decentralisation of administration and planning; and

(b) in what way Government propose to ensure that funds under Gram Samridhi Yojana reach Panchayats actually and ensure no diversion of funds?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) While the empowering of Gram Sabhas with financial and functional powers is primarily the concern of the State Governments / Union Territory Administrations, the Central Government have also taken initiatives in this direction. The State Governments / Union Territory Administrations have been advised to ensure that Gram Sabhas should meet at least once every quarter, preferably on 26th January — Republic Day, 1st May — Labour Day, 15th August — Independence Day and 2nd October — Gandhi Jayanti. The Chief Ministers / Administrators have been requested to initiate the following measures:—

(i) to vest powers in the Gram Sabha, on the lines envisaged in the provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996;

(ii) to make a mandatory provision in the Panchayati Raj Act for holding Gram Sabha meetings throughout the country, on the same pre-determined dates;

(iii) to make a mandatory provision in the Panchayati Raj Act specifying quorum for Gram Sabha meetings;

(iv) to make members of Gram Sabhas better aware of their powers and responsibilities and to ensure mass participation, particularly of SCs / STs / Women;

(v) to lay down procedures for Gram Sabhas to effectively carry out social audit of beneficiary-oriented development programmes.

The Central Government have publicised the role of Gram Sabhas through All India Radio, Television and through advertisements in National Newspapers. Steps have been taken in order that selection of beneficiaries under the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) and the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) is made in the Gram Sabha meetings. The Gram Sabha is authorised to approve works to be undertaken under the JGSY.

(b) As per JGSY Guidelines, the funds to Village Panchayats are to be distributed by the DRDAs / ZPs within fifteen days of their receipt (by the DRDAs / ZPs) from the Central Government / State Government. Diversion of funds from one district to another district or from a Village Panchayat to

another Village Panchayat is not permissible. It is stipulated in the sanction orders that funds released by the Centre should be exclusively utilized for the approved item of works, subject to the conditions laid down in the Guidelines.

Second instalments under JGSY are released on receipt of Utilisation Certificates from the implementing agencies to the effect that the funds have been utilised for the purpose for which these were sanctioned and no diversion of the same has been made.

Safe drinking water in A.P.

5626. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the villages in Andhra Pradesh have been provided with safe drinking water facilities;

(b) if not, how many villages are still to be provided safe drinking water alongwith details thereof district-wise; and

(c) by when all these villages in the State are likely to be provided with safe drinking water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Drinking Water Supply is a State subject. The State Government implement the programme under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). The Central Government only supplements the efforts of the States by providing funds under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Powers have been delegated to the States to plan, sanction and implement their individual rural water supply schemes.

As per the information furnished by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, as on 1.4.2000, out of 69732 rural habitations in the State, 21583 are "Partially Covered" and the remaining are ""Fully Covered" with access to drinking water facilities. However, there are 13593 quality affected habitations in the State, out of which 1991 habitations will be covered in the on-going Sub-Mission projects. A statement giving district-wise information regarding partially covered and quality affected habitations as furnished by Government of Andhra Pradesh is enclosed. (*See* below)

(c) In accordance with the National Agenda for Governance of the Government, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has prepared action plan to provide drinking water to all rural habitations in five years time. This